

Today

100 Congressladies, Soon.  
A Spot-Changing Leopard.  
Toasts for the Kaiser.  
And Other Trivialities.

How will Congress look and act with a hundred women sitting there, representing every State in the Union?

There is ONE woman in Congress now. It is no compliment to say that she ranks 100 per cent above the Congressional average in every way.

Fifty per cent of the government problem now outside of war is trust robbery. Women's votes will attend to that.

The fixed habit is hard to break. We have some valuable gentlemen serving their country "for one dollar a year." These are distinguished citizens. The great asset of the nation is the distinguished citizen.

Many of these one-dollar-a-year gentlemen have been convinced from the cradle that the interest of the nation was THEIR interest. In other words, their minds have learned to believe that when they serve THEMSELVES they serve the nation.

Have they lost that mental habit? How many of them are now automatically serving themselves, still convinced that they are serving the nation?

For two cents a week, these big ones of finance and industry serve. But what are they REALLY SERVING?

Is it possible that fewer of these two-cents-a-week gentlemen and more workers of another kind would be an improvement?

What is the sound basis for assuming that men whose lives and efforts have hitherto been entirely selfish will suddenly change? We ask for information.

Jeremiah asked, "Can the leopard change his spots?" He can by getting up from one spot and moving to another. It might help some national problems if a few of the two-cents-a-week gentlemen would get up from their present spots in Government offices and move to another—back to Wall Street, for instance.

The discovery of a nest of German mines floating in the water on the Australian coast will interest those in charge of our coast. The power of the ship that works invisible is hardly understood or appreciated. We shall have unpleasant surprises inevitably before the war ends. Comfort in the fact that the Kaiser will also have an unpleasant surprise, after the war.

Don't overlook the good things. Secretary McAdoo's bureau of insurance for fighting men is a great success and a marvelous economy.

A quarter of a million men are taking out two billions of insurance—and paying a fair price, something that nobody in the United States taking out insurance ever did before.

General Byng says of American soldiers that they are "earnest, modest, helpful." This is praise from a good soldier.

We hope later to hear from General Byng and others that American soldiers, in addition to being earnest, modest, helpful, have still the qualities that they used to have—namely the ability to beat their enemy. That seems to be lacking in this war, and some one ought to supply it.

What happens when you capture Prussians that have murdered their officers on a submarine? Are they prisoners of war, or are they murderers, to be punished as such when we catch them?

The question arises with a report that an American battleship took in charge a submarine which it found floating on the surface, a white flag above it. The officers of the submarine, murdered by the crew, were stretched out on deck. The crew, disoriented and anxious to be captured, surrendered.

High morality would say that the crew are murderers and should be punished for murder.

Common sense, of course, says do nothing of the kind. Don't discourage any intelligent Prussian that knows enough to kill his own officers and contribute his submarine to the good cause of civilization.

We think that common sense will win, and that deserving representatives of "kultur," delivering up U-boats and their dead Prussian officers, will be told, "Bygones are bygones, and after all what you have done is only murder, and your own Emperor sets you the example on the whole-sale scale."

A spy is caught and in his trunk "handwritten toasts to Emperor William." It may amuse you to write a few toasts to Emperor William, for instance:

May you live long—in prison.  
Here's to you and all your family—in jail.  
A merry life and a short one.  
Here's a nail in your coffin.

WEATHER:  
CLOUDY  
AND  
WARMER  
TONIGHT

NUMBER 10,387.

WASHINGTON, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 24, 1917.

PRICE WITHIN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1c.  
ELSEWHERE, 2c.

# DENTIST TRIED TO BUY CYANIDE FOR SECRET BRIDE

## ITALIANS CUT 60,000 OF FOE TO PIECES IN BRAVE STAND

Attacked for Three Days by Heavy Guns and Gases, Col. Berrata's Men Hold Monte Asolone.

Three Teuton divisions—approximately 60,000 men—were literally cut to pieces by the Italians in the German offensive against Colonel Berrata and Monte Asolone, according to Rome dispatches today.

Commanders of the Seventh and Eighth Austrian brigades, and General Pfeffer, commander of the Fourth Austrian division, have been seriously wounded, captured prisoners declared.

Regain Positions. With the recapture of positions on Monte Asolone the Italians have re-established their positions over the menaced portions of the Italian line.

For three days the defenders fought under a terrific artillery fire and against asphyxiating gases. Losses on both sides were enormous.

The invaders are forcing the women and children of the city of Udine to work in the fields from 4 o'clock in the morning until 6 at night, with a half-hour of rest in the morning, an hour and a half at noon, and a half hour in the afternoon, according to dispatches.

Women Flogged. The penalty for refusing to work is six months' imprisonment, not to be inflicted, however, until after the termination of the harvest. Daily floggings of slow children and women, some of them physically unable to work, are reported by refugees escaping to the Italian lines.

See Wins in Asiago Valley. A strong Teuton attack launched in the western sector of the Asiago valley, and Monte Vabbio, resulted in the penetration of the Italian lines by a portion of the enemy, the war office announced today.

"Our artillery raked their advance, making heavy inroads upon them, and they were forced to stop at our rear positions," it was announced.

"Our troops' counter-attack is progressing satisfactorily. Along the Piave at Vecchia, south of Gradisno, detachments of Bersaglieri executed a surprise attack upon and drove back large parties of the enemy who had succeeded in passing the right bank of the river, and made an desperate attempt to regain their positions."

GEN. KALEDINE RETIRES AS LEADER OF REVOLT; URGES NEW CHIEFTAIN

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Moscow dispatches today reported a declaration of martial law by the Cossacks. General Kaledine has formally retired from his palace as military dictator of the revolt against the Bolsheviks, urging choice by the rebels of a government that would be representative of the whole people.

In the meantime, the Bolsheviks delegates to the peace conference at Brest Litovsk were endeavoring to patch up some sort of an understanding.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

CLERK LIES DEAD IN ROOM 24 HOURS BEFORE DISCOVERY

Holding an unopened letter from his sister the body of Edward M. Demaray, fifty-five years old, for twenty years a clerk in the office of the auditor for the Postoffice Department, was discovered this morning in his room at 1502 Thirteenth street north-west. He had been dead probably twenty-four hours from an attack of heart disease.

There was nothing to excite suspicion in the case, and Acting Coroner Carr gave out a certificate of death from natural causes. Mrs. Mary E. Hall, who keeps the rooming house, and discovered the body, declared that Demaray had not been seen since Saturday afternoon. He returned to the house Saturday night, and nothing was thought of it when he did not turn up for meals Sunday. When she went to summon him this morning she found him dead.

The dead man was a native of Stillwater, Minn. He had lived at Mrs. Hall's house for two years, she said.

## FRANCE AND HER CHRISTMAS GUESTS

(Copyright, 1917, by John T. McCutcheon.)



## KAISER DECLARES HE'LL FORCE PEACE WITH MAILED FIST

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—The German federal council has approved Chancellor Von Hertling's peace conference, according to a Berlin dispatch today. Details of the plans were withheld.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—"If the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace to the world by the battering of our iron fist and our shining sword," Kaiser Wilhelm declared in a speech to the second army.

"Despite three years of war and suffering," the Kaiser continued, "our old offensive spirit is still effective."

"This is shown," the Emperor added, "by our recent great victories in Flanders and at Cambrai, where the arrogant British felt the crushing power of our offensive blow."

The Kaiser, continuing, extravagantly praised the tactics, strategy and valor of the successful defense of his troops on the west front. He referred specifically to the defense which German troops interposed against the attempt to advance toward Brussels, as the "most gigantic feat in history."

"The year 1917," the Kaiser said, "has proved that the German people have in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally, on whom they can absolutely rely."

"Without Him all would have been in vain."

The Kaiser's speech was made Saturday to the second army, somewhere on the west front.

TWO U. S. SAILORS LOST FROM TRANSPORT

The sea has claimed two more American sailors. Leo B. Murphy, Oroville, Cal., and George O. K. Vidali, Arlington, N. J., second class seamen were lost overboard from a transport December 17. The Navy Department announced today.

PRIME MINISTER BORDEN TO REST IN VIRGINIA

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, after several months of strenuous labor, has left for Virginia, where he will enjoy a fortnight's holiday. He was accompanied by Lady Borden.

## KRUPP WORKS STILL AFIRE, U. S. HEARS

Confidential advice coming from a usually reliable source abroad, reaching here today confirm the report that the Essen, Germany, munition works are burning. The message said the fire had been going for some time with considerable damage and that the cause was "unknown."

Some here think it might be incendiary.

SHOT IN QUARREL OVER GIRL, YOUNG MAN RUSHED HERE

Rushed here on a Southern railway train today David Figgins, aged twenty-four, of Linden, Va., lies wounded in Meigsopathic Hospital, victims of a shotgun welded, it is said, by Elijah Corder, twenty, of the same place.

The shooting, as a result of which Figgins' right arm and breast were torn by scores of shot, followed an altercation between the two young men at Corder's home. Headquarters Detective Berman met Figgins at Union Station as he was carried from the train in charge of his cousin, Bradford Schworer, of Linden.

The sheriff of Warren county stated today that Miss Minnie Martin, who was with Figgins at the time of the shooting also was wounded. A number of shot entering her side below the lungs, she was attended by physicians in Linden.

The sheriff said the girl went to Corder's home and asked Figgins to accompany her away from the place. In the altercation which followed, the sheriff states, Corder was stabbed. Figgins and the girl then left the house. Before they reached the gate, Corder is alleged to have appeared in the doorway with a shotgun. He fired at Figgins and part of the charge hit the girl.

Corder is now in jail at Front Royal charged with shooting with intent to kill.

NAMED INSTITUTE HEAD.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The Rev. James E. Gregg, of Pittsfield, Mass., has been named principal of Hampton Institute, Va., to succeed the late Dr. B. B. Seisell.

## AHRENS' FRIENDS DEFEND HIM FOR DODGING WEDDING

Facing expulsion from the Seventh Day Adventists' church for "disappearing" a few minutes before he was to be married to Miss Lora Gertrude French, Carl Louis Ahrens, honor man of Washington Missionary College, is expected to demand a public trial by the elders at Takoma Park, D. C.

Friends of the "missing bridegroom" today declared this to be his attitude.

Ahrens is still at the home of his sister in Little Valley, N. Y.

The story of the young man's behavior, published yesterday in The Times in the form of an official statement of what led up to the alleged "kidnaping" of Ahrens, caused college chums of the missing youth today to insist he is not to blame.

Friend Will Be Here. If Ahrens is placed on trial, it will be in Takoma Park. He is a member of the College-Sanitarium Church at that place. Prof. B. F. Machlan, president of the Washington Missionary College, is the elder of that church.

Prof. Machlan today said that until word is received from Ahrens he will make no move to investigate any allegations that have been made about the strange disappearance of his honor student. What happened will be told in due course. Meanwhile, those who thought well of Ahrens continue to stand by him. He has a host of defenders in Takoma Park. Few of the womenfolk up here believe him to have committed a wrong in this affair.

"May we use your name?" he was asked.

"If Mr. Ahrens is expelled from the church without a fair hearing, at least a half dozen of the active men of this college will come forward and stand by him. In that event my name will be immediately known, as I will be the first to come forward and testify he is the victim of misplaced judgment. That's all I care to say now."

NOTED SCULPTOR DIES.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 24.—William Greene Turner, eighty-four, died yesterday at his home here. He was a noted sculptor, one of his works being the memorial here to Commodore Perry, hero of Lake Erie.

## WE'LL WORK FOR CLERKS' RAISE, PLEDGE 107 SOLONS

Government Employees' Leaders Give Out 145 Letters From Legislators, Great Majority Promising Support.

H. M. McLarin, president of the Federation of Federal Employees, and Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary of the National Federation of Postal Employees, today gave their Christmas message of good cheer to the Government clerks striving for higher wages. Letters received by these two leaders from 145 Senators and Congressmen, in which most of them pledged their aid to the clerks, were today given The Times for publication.

As a result of these letters, leaders of the campaign are inclined toward the belief that the outlook for success is clearer and brighter today than ever before. Opinions from members of the Congressional committee in charge of the increases for Government employees have hitherto shown that success could reasonably be hoped for.

News Too Good to Keep. With all these letters, Mr. McLarin and Mr. Flaherty think "well, they think their news is too good to keep—especially at Christmas."

Of the 145 Senators and Congressmen who have written either to Mr. McLarin or to Mr. Flaherty in regard to the bills now pending, 107 have pledged themselves to support actively and to the limit of their abilities the increase asked by the clerks.

Out of 127 Congressmen only thirty-one failed positively to pledge their support. Of the nineteen Senators heard from, eleven were outspoken in their intentions to aid the clerks. There is not one in which any opposition to any of the bills favored by the clerks was voiced.

Mr. McLarin wrote the Congressmen asking their support of the Keating bill, providing for an increase for all Government and District employees on a scale graduated from 5 to 30 per cent. This is the bill officially supported by organized labor. A number of Congressmen have gone so far as to state that they will work toward allowing the clerks a greater increase than is provided by the Keating bill.

Mr. Flaherty wrote the Congressmen in behalf of the Madden bill, which provides for a reclassification (Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

## LIFE A SWINDLE, LAWYER WRITES IN SUICIDE NOTE

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Christmas time and "no friends," was too much for J. C. Larson, an attorney, formerly of Kingston, N. Y. His body was found in his room at the Broadway Central Hotel today, a bullet through his temple.

The dead attorney left \$50 to be used for cremation of his body, \$5 for his hotel bill, and 89 cents for a telegram to his father, 321 Hasbrouck avenue, Kingston, N. Y., informing him that "your son died suddenly."

On the table in his room was found this note: "I have had many adventures in many lands—now I am about to take the great adventure. I am sick and tired of the swindle that is called life."

Despondency in his conduct had been noted by Larson's friends during the past few days.

Similar Move Last Year. The various reports of immediate peace proposals by the Germans on seemingly favorable terms should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war.

It is only necessary for us to recall that during the Christmas season of last year the Germans put forth very similar peace rumors.

In considering the general military situation in its true light it must be understood that the Germans realize that within a short time our front will break through the allied line in the west.

YESTERDAY

The Washington Times GAINED 14,810 Lines of Advertising (53 Cols.) Over the Corresponding Day (Dec. 24) Last Year.

EDGAR D. SHAW, Publisher.

## Dentist Husband of Secret Bride



DR. L. J. JOHNSON, who is under arrest for the death of his three-months' bride.

## U. S. TROOPS TO CARRY BRUNT, SAYS BAKER

That the American armies will soon form the principal body of fresh strategic reserves on the battlefields of Europe and will bear the brunt of the fighting, is the declaration made today by Secretary of War Baker in his weekly review of the war.

This fact, he also asserts, is only appreciated by the enemy, and counts for that reason "peace treaty" propaganda to an intensive drive on the western front.

Secretary Baker also points out that the Italian armies have successfully repulsed the enemy along its lines, and that as a result of this movement is under way to cause a social upheaval in Italy similar to those instigated in Russia, Serbia, and Roumania.

No Check to War Plans. Germany's insidious Christmas peace propaganda "should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war," says Baker. He points out clearly that Germany now is trying to knock Italy out of the fight, while at the same time she is testing out the west front preliminary to what has been heralded as a big offensive.

He warns, too, that America's portion of the struggle is vast, and that: "Our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

Forerunner of Drive. On the subject of Teuton peace feelers and America's task, the Secretary says:

"It would appear that as a forerunner to the German offensive heralded to be launched in the west, an intensive peace propaganda is under way."

Officials here see in the Russo-German gathering at Brest-Litovsk an effort by Germany to effect separate peace with Russia during the holidays for the psychological effect on other nations.

Careful examination of the situation reveals that the enemy is again preparing to sue for peace before victory," Baker said.

Information from various sources confirms the reports that the Germans would have the world believe that the military situation is such that they are able to dictate the terms of peace. They therefore threaten that unless this dictated peace is accepted by the allied powers and ourselves, the German forces now being concentrated on the western front will break through the allied line in the west.

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In considering the general military situation in its true light it must be understood that the Germans realize that within a short time our front will break through the allied line in the west.

Concocted Marriage. According to Wiley, who visited Middleton and Wilson, and traced the movements of Dr. Johnson since the death of his bride, Johnson freely discussed the report that his wife had suicided, but at no time did he admit that he was legally married to her.

On a person who was interviewed by the detective Johnson made disparaging statements of the young woman's character.

## NEW CLUE DEVELOPED IN POISON MYSTERY

Dead Girl Told Friend of Strange Medicine Her Husband Was Giving Her—Alienist May Be Called In.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 24.—That Dr. Lemuel J. Johnson, who is under arrest here for the death by poison of his secret bride of three months sought to purchase cyanide of potassium is made certain by evidence made public by Detective Wiley this morning.

This evidence the detective gathered in Wilson, N. C., where Johnson went after the death of the young girl who for three months had been his wife.

It is established that the girl died from the effects of cyanide, and it is believed by inference that she took the drug as a part of the "treatment" which her doctor husband was administering.

Sickened by Capsule. It has been learned from Miss Mary E. Jordan, the intimate friend and constant companion of Mrs. Alice Knight Johnson, dead wife of the dentist, that the wife, two days prior to her death, stated that the doctor had prescribed the fatal capsules for her.

This is the first intimation had that Mrs. Johnson mentioned this source of the capsules. According to Miss Jordan, the dead bride said "Dr. Johnson has given me some more medicine to take, and it is the worst I have ever prescribed."

On Friday, before her death on Saturday, December 5, Mrs. Johnson told Miss Jordan that "I took one of the capsules on Monday, and it made me sick. I don't have to take the other one until Saturday night."

Johnson denied today with vehemence that he had prescribed the cyanide poison capsules that killed his wife, and said that he had no knowledge of the affair, further than what he had seen in the press.

At no time, Dr. Johnson said, had he had any cyanide of potassium aside from that used at the medical college for experimentation.

Johnson was placed early today in the jail hospital and the care of a physician. He has not fully recovered from the effects of the anesthetic poison which he swallowed in a Wilson, N. C. hotel while en route to his funeral home after attending the funeral of his secret bride here last Thursday.

Statements Confict. Detective Sergeant John L. Wiley, of Richmond, who went to Wilson and took charge of the dentist, states that from the hour he attempted suicide by taking poison last week until today his remarks have been a series of conflicting statements.

His every act, the detective declared, has indicated that his mind is deranged, that he is a mental as well as a physical wreck. Whether this condition is due to the strain of the events of the past weeks or is assumed, the detectives have not been able to determine.

At the police headquarters, Johnson, a small pale young man, appeared to be in a nervous breakdown. Last night when brought in from Wilson, and only slight improvement was seen today in his condition.

"I don't know why I have been brought here," said Johnson. "There is nothing wrong that I have done that I should be held for."

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On a person who was interviewed by the detective Johnson made disparaging statements of the young woman's character.

A suitcase filled with letters and small effects taken from the dentist's hotel at Wilson shows that on last Thursday morning, before swallowing anesthetic in an effort to end his own life, he wrote to a dozen or more friends.

In every instance he said that he had had a great misfortune; that he could not stand up under his troubles any longer, and to whom he was discharging some time ago, he wrote that she was the "only one that I have ever loved."

Miss White is a teacher in a country school near Middleton.

Hints at Charge. The only letter in which Dr. Johnson hints that he may be accused in (Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)